



USAID | MACEDONIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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PRESS RELEASE

Communities of Berovo and Pehcevo celebrate the first of 100 schools to be renovated by USAID

In addition to the start of the new school year, this September primary school students in Berovo and Pehcevo municipalities will have two more reasons to be happy. The old primary schools "Nikola Petrov Rusinski" in the v. Rusinovo and "Vanco Kitanov" in Pehcevo have been fully renovated, thanks to the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia. These two schools are the first of 100 primary schools that USAID will renovate throughout Macedonia.

Both of the school buildings were very old and, although they have been reconstructed several times, the need for new renovation work was more than welcomed. USAID's Primary Education Project (PEP) replaced all 116 old iron and wooden windows in both of the schools with new energy efficient aluminum windows. USAID's contribution to both schools was approximately \$80,000. The municipalities also provided significant cost share for the renovation work.

"The new aluminum windows installed in this school will save energy and at the same time will provide a better learning environment for the students and teachers. This project is a wonderful example of coordinated team-work and outstanding citizen participation," said Ryan Rowlands, the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Officer, during his opening remarks in front of the school buildings in Rusinovo and Pehcevo on Thursday, September 27th.

Due to the old and damaged wooden and iron windows the schools have lost as much as 30% of their heat during each heating season. This has placed an additional burden on municipal budgets, as they are now responsible for maintenance of school buildings. It is planned that savings from the energy efficient windows can be invested by the municipality into other areas that will improve education.

"The old school building didn't provide conditions for normal teaching and there was an urgent need for renovation," said Venko Pashaliski, the Mayor of Berovo Municipality. "Having the local community team join together with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) enabled the project to be carried out swiftly. I extend my sincere gratitude to the American People for their understanding and support on behalf of the citizens and pupils of Berovo."

USAID/PEP will renovate up to 100 primary schools through 2011. Applications for the second phase of 32 schools to be renovated are currently being accepted and are available online at www.pep.org.mk. PEP's school renovations component supports the creation of better learning environments and the decentralization of school facilities to municipal governments.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit www.USAID.org.mk.